

County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

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November 14, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES - LANCASTER DISTRICT OFFICE SELECTED AS A 2006 HUNGER CHAMPION PROGRAM-HONORABLE MENTOR**

This is to inform you that the National Food Stamp Outreach Coalition, 2006 Hunger Champions' committee, has selected DPSS' Lancaster District Office as a 2006 National Food Stamp Hunger Champion-Honorable Mentor. The Food Stamp Outreach Coalition was formed by USDA in 2003, and consists of national organizations working to end hunger and promote the benefits of the Food Stamp Program.

In response to your Board's direction, we launched a campaign in the Antelope Valley which resulted in a 36% increase, from August 2004 to February 2005, in the number of households receiving Food Stamps only. The success of this pilot was the basis for the Countywide Food Stamp Outreach Campaign which we implemented in July 2005.

The Food Stamp Hunger Champions' Program honors local food stamp offices that provide exemplary service in assisting eligible clients obtain food stamps. The goal of the program is to recognize and support those local offices with food stamp professionals who embrace the mission of the Food Stamp Program "to increase food security and to reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people with food, a healthy diet and nutrition education."

The two Food Stamp Hunger Champion Mentor and seven Honorable Mentor awardees were selected from 79 nominations submitted to USDA from state and local offices and advocacy organizations serving communities across the country. I have attached for your information the USDA press release announcing the awardees.

BY:lr

Attachment



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## Newsroom

Release No. FNS 0003-06

Susan Acker (703) 305-2181

### **USDA Announces 2006 Hunger Champion Mentor Awardee**

PHOENIX, October 24, 2006—Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kate Coler today announced the 2006 Food Stamp Hunger Champion Mentor Award recipients at the State Food Stamp Directors conference. The awardees have shown exemplary service in assisting eligible clients obtain food stamp benefits.

"The Food Stamp Program is the first line of defense against hunger," Coler said. "USDA in partnership with state and local offices and advocacy organizations is committed to ensuring that everyone who is eligible for this Program knows about it and is able to access benefits with dignity and respect. We are very pleased to honor partners that have shown exemplary efforts in achieving this goal."

The 2006 Food Stamp Hunger Champion Mentor Award recipients are:

#### **Food Stamp Hunger Champion Mentors**

- Ashtabula County Department of Job & Family Services; Ashtabula, Ohio
- North Shore Transitional Assistance Office; Salem, Mass.

#### **Food Stamp Hunger Champion Honorable Mentors**

- Brunswick County Department of Social Services; Lawrenceville, Ga.
- Catawba County Department of Social Services; Newton, N.C.
- Health & Human Services Commission; Houston, Texas
- Lancaster District Office, Lancaster, Calif.
- McCree District Office; Flint Mich.
- Springfield Economic Services Office; Springfield, Vt.

- Wichita Regional Office, Wichita, Kans.

The Food Stamp Hunger Champion Mentor and Honorable Mentor awardees were selected from 79 nominations submitted to USDA from state and local offices and advocacy organizations serving communities across the country. All of the Hunger Champion Award nominees will be listed as exemplary offices on the Food Stamp Program's web site.

The two offices selected to be Hunger Champion Mentors will share their successful strategies for ensuring that all eligible participants are able to access food stamp benefits at the 2006 State Food Stamp Directors conference. The Food Stamp Hunger Champions Mentors also will be recognized with an award noting their efforts to ensure that food stamp participants have the nutrition assistance they need for their families.

The Food Stamp Program provides support to needy households and individuals making the transition from welfare to work. More than 26 million people in approximately 11 million households participate in the program. More information about the Food Stamp Program and the Hunger Champions Award is available at [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)

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